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82D CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 1078

ANTON BERNHARD BLIKSTAD

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JANUARY 21 (legislative day, JANUARY 10), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 870]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 870) for the relief of Anton Bernhard Blikstad, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant the status of permanent residence in the United States to Anton Bernhard Blikstad. The bill provides for an appropriate quota deduction and for the payment of the required visa fee and head tax.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is a 28-year-old native of Spain and citizen of Norway who last entered the United States as a visitor on January 18, 1949. He is presently employed by Clemson Bros., Inc., of Middletown, N. Y., manufacturers of hacksaw blades. The company advises that the beneficiary of the bill possesses unusual ability and that the company urgently needs his talent.

A letter, dated October 7, 1949, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Acting Assistant to the Attorney General, with reference to H. R. 2857, which was a bill introduced in the Eighty-first Congress for the relief of this alien, reads as follows:

OCTOBER 7, 1949.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 2857) for the relief of Anton Bernhard Blikstad, an alien.

The bill would direct the Attorney General, in the administration of the immigration and naturalization laws, to record the lawful admission for permanent residence of Anton Bernhard Blikstad as of January 18, 1949, at New York, N. Y., and would direct the Secretary of State to instruct the quota-control officer to deduct one number from the appropriate immigration quota.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service disclose that the alien was born in Spain on October 29, 1922, and that he is a citizen of Norway. He first entered the United States in 1946, remaining until April 1948, and last entered at the port of New York on January 18, 1949, when he was admitted as a temporary visitor until July 17, 1949. He has not received any extensions of his temporary stay. Further proceedings, however, were ordered held in abeyance pending consideration of the instant bill.

The alien has not been employed in this country. He has been a student or observer at the Clemson Bros., Inc., plant at Middletown, N. Y., manufacturers of lawn mowers and metal-cutting devices. He stated that his parents in Norway are willing and able to finance his stay in the United States.

The quota of Spain, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed for many years and a visa is not readily obtainable. His case is similar to those of many other aliens who desire to enter the United States for permanent residence but who are unable to do so because of the oversubscribed condition of the quotas to which they are chargeable. The record presents no facts which would justify enactment of special legislation granting him a preference over other aliens who are awaiting their turn for immigration visas.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the bill.

Yours sincerely,

PETER CAMPBELL BROWN,
Acting the Assistant to the Attorney General.

Representative Katharine St. George, the author of the bill, appeared before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and submitted the following information in connection with the bill:

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., *May 14, 1951.*

Re H. R. 870, relief of Anton B. Blikstad.

Hon. KATHARINE ST. GEORGE,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN: Pursuant to your request of May 8, I am enclosing herewith Mr. Blikstad's affidavit, as well as several statements from local organizations.

We are now looking forward to encouraging news from your office.

Your attention and efforts in this matter are highly appreciated by all concerned.

Very truly yours,

FRANKLIN A. SCHRIVER.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
County of Orange, ss:

Anton Bernhard Blikstad, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That the deponent has not at any time been a member of, or associated with, any Fascist or totalitarian organization or group in any nation.

BERNHARD BLIKSTAD.

Sworn to before me this 11th day of May 1951.

BEATRICE R. GAMEYS, *Notary Public.*

MIDDLETOWN POST 151, AMERICAN LEGION,
Middletown, N. Y., May 14, 1951.

To Whom It May Concern:

Bernhard Blikstad has been a resident of the community for over 3 years and we have acquired a personal knowledge of his background and his military achievements during the late war in Norway.

Knowing Mr. Blikstad and his interest in community affairs, we can highly recommend his application for citizenship in this country.

Yours truly,

DONALD BEAKES, *Post Adjutant.*

WALL, COMMUNITY BROADCASTING CORP.,
Middletown, N. Y., May 11, 1951.

Re Anton Bernhard Blikstad.

To Whom It May Concern:

As a major in the Marine Corps Reserve, I have a great deal of respect and admiration for Anton Bernhard Blikstad. I have known Mr. Blikstad for the past 3 years and am familiar with his excellent and courageous work in the late war on the side of the Allies.

His activity in civic affairs and in athletics is highly regarded in our community.

I would make no reservation in recommending him for citizenship of our country.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE F. SHEPARD.

MIDDLETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
Middletown, N. Y., May 11, 1951.

Re Anton Bernhard Blikstad.

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure as president of the Middletown Chamber of Commerce to highly recommend Anton Bernhard Blikstad. I have known him for the last 3 years and cannot say enough for his sincerity, integrity, and community interest.

It seems to me fitting that young men of his type express their desire to be citizens of these United States and just as fitting that our men of Government authority grant them the privilege of citizenship.

Sincerely yours,

KENNETH W. THOMPSON, *President.*

In addition to the above, the chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary has received the following letter, dated October 15, 1951, from William E. Cross, president of Clemson Bros., Inc.:

CLEMSON BROS., INC.,
Middletown, N. Y., October 15, 1951.

Re bill H. R. 870.

Senator PAT MCCARRAN,
Chairman of the Judiciary Committee,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SENATOR MCCARRAN: I am writing to you regarding the above bill No. 870, to permit Mr. Bernhard Blikstad, a young man of 29 years of age and a citizen of Oslo, Norway, to immigrate to the United States of America.

Mr. Blikstad was born in Santander, Spain, the son of Norwegian parents who were in that country for a period of about 2 years transacting business. Six months following Mr. Blikstad's birth, the family returned to Norway and Mr. Blikstad has never been in Spain since that time. Because of this happenstance of birth in Spain, and wishing to immigrate to the United States of America, our consulate in Oslo, Norway, advised him that he would be required to immigrate on the Spanish quota. He was further advised that this would take a minimum of 10 years.

Mr. Blikstad, after receiving the above information, determined to come here and see what could be done in the United States of America with regard to this unusual situation. Hence the bill H. R. 870, which we learned a few weeks ago was reported favorably out of committee in the House.

In the practically 3 years Mr. Blikstad has been awaiting action on the bill he has devoted himself diligently to the technical and metallurgical research in connection with the heat treatment of steel used in the manufacture of our especially heat treated saw blades. I neglected to mention that Mr. Blikstad came to us because his father and grandfather have for more than 40 years been associated with us in the advancement of our business interests in the Scandinavian countries.

Young Blikstad has proved himself to us to possess unusual ability to grasp the technicalities that enter into the heat treatment of steel and the knowledge he has gained through his experience with our laboratory has determined him to be invaluable to us. We are urgently in need of talent such as we know Blikstad to be in position to give and an important position awaits him with our company when, as, and if favorable action is given by the Senate committee. It is not difficult for you to appreciae how invaluable technical research men of ability are needed and especially at this time. It is because of our need that I am urging, in consequence of the recital above, that Mr. Blikstad's bill No. H. R. 870 be given favorable action.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM E. CROSS, *President.*

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 870) should be enacted.

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